



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Sustainable Fisheries Division
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Seattle, WA 98115-0070

DATE: May 10, 2004

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: F/NWR2 -Becky Renko

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY Report #1 -- 2003 Pacific Whiting Fishery

This report consolidates preliminary state, federal, and tribal data for the 2004 Pacific whiting fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California. The shore-based season in most of the Eureka area (between 42°- 40°30' N. lat.) began on April 1, and the fishery south of 40°30' N. lat. opened April 15. If it is determined that the shore-based whiting fishery south of 42° N. lat. will reach its allocation before the shore-based fishery north of 42° N. lat. begins (June 15) the primary season for Pacific whiting fishery south of 42° N. lat. will be temporarily closed. The catcher/processor and non-tribal mothership fishery will start on May 15.

	Allocation		Catch* (mt)	Thru [date]	Status	Percent of allocation taken
	Percentages	Metric Tons				
California (south of 42 N lat.)	(5% shore alloc'n; included in WOC shore allocation)	4,526	1,848	4/22/04	CA season started April 1; 5% alloc'n	40.8%
Oregon	--	NA	0			
Washington	--	NA	0			
WOC shore-based	42% commercial OY	90,510	1,848			2.0%
Mothership (n. of 42 N. lat.)	24% commercial OY	51,720	0			0.0%
Catcher/processor (n. of 42 N. lat.)	34% commercial OY	73,270	0			0.0%
Total nontribal	commercial OY	215,500	1,848		--	0.9%
Tribal (Makah)		32,500	0			0.0%
Total directed fishing		248,000	1,848			0.7%
Other (research & incidental catch in non- groundfish fisheries)		2,000	unknown at this time			--
Total	OY=optimum yield	250,000		--	--	--

* Catch includes discards from at-sea processors; weigh-backs from shore-based catcher vessels; and small amounts landed under the trip limit between the seasons. The data for at-sea processing (catcher/processors and motherships) are preliminary and are based on reports from NMFS-trained observers. Data for shore-based processors also are preliminary and are provided by each State to NMFS for the purpose of monitoring the fishery. Preliminary data for the Makah fishery are from NMFS-trained observers or it has been provided by the State where the catch is landed. All weights are round weight (the weight of the whole fish before processing) or round-weight equivalents. One metric ton is 2,204.6 pounds.

